United Nations S/2001/995

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 October 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 21 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 October 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the acts of aggression and terrorism that the United States and the United Kingdom are committing against Iraq on the pretext of enforcing the two so-called no-flight zones imposed in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which have begun to take on more intrusive dimensions in targeting Iraqi civilians. He states that, in addition to the bombing of Iraqi towns and villages and of the infrastructure of the Iraqi economy that has caused thousands of civilian deaths, left tens of thousands wounded and inflicted enormous material losses, United States and British aircraft have begun to intercept Iraqi civilian aircraft operating on domestic flights between Baghdad and the other governorates and to threaten the pilots on the pretext that they are violating the so-called no-flight zones.

The Minister states that the threats being made by United States warplanes to the safety and security of civilians and civilian aircraft represent organized State terrorism that is no different from any other terrorist action targeting civilians in any other part of the world. He expresses the hope that, acting with the Security Council, you will meet your responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations by intervening immediately in order to halt these acts of terrorism — namely the interference of United States aircraft with Iraqi civil aviation and their threats to shoot down Iraqi civilian aircraft — and to deter those who are committing these terrorist acts and bring them to account for their actions. The Minister affirms that Iraq reserves in full its right to respond in an appropriate manner to these threats in order to ensure the safety of its people and the integrity of its airspace and territory, that it charges the United States and the United Kingdom with full legal responsibility for these acts and that it reserves its right to claim compensation for all the damage they have inflicted on the Iraqi people.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-59788 (E) 241001 241001

Annex to the letter dated 21 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that the acts of aggression and terrorism committed by the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq on the pretext of enforcing the two so-called no-flight zones imposed in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law have begun to take on more intrusive dimensions in targeting Iraqi civilians.

In addition to the bombing of Iraqi towns and villages and of the infrastructure of the Iraqi economy that has caused thousands of civilian deaths, left tens of thousands wounded and inflicted enormous material losses, United States and British aircraft have begun to intercept Iraqi civilian aircraft operating on domestic flights between Baghdad and the other governorates and to threaten pilots on the pretext that they are violating the so-called no-flight zones.

Merely by way of example, an Iraqi Boeing 747 on a flight between Baghdad and Basrah on 30 August 2001 received threatening messages from a United States AWACS aircraft transmitting on the international frequency of 121.50 megahertz, which is the emergency frequency for all international airlines. In sending the warning messages, the American airmen claimed that they were from the United Nations, that the Iraqi aircraft was in an area in which flight was prohibited and that this placed it in the gravest danger. At 1655 hours local time on 5 October 2001 United States aircraft transmitted a threatening message to an Iraqi Boeing 747 aircraft on a flight between Baghdad and Basrah. The threatening messages indicated that the entry of the Iraqi aircraft into the so-called no-flight zone would be regarded as a violation of the resolutions of the Security Council and that if the aircraft continued its flight it would be in danger of being shot down.

The threats made by United States warplanes to the safety and security of civilians and civilian aircraft represent organized State terrorism. This intimidates the hundreds of Iraqi citizens who use civilian aircraft to move about their country and places them and the aircraft crews in the gravest danger.

The daily terrorism practised by the United States and the United Kingdom against the security and safety of Iraqi citizens and civilian aircraft is no different from any other terrorist action targeting civilians in any part of the world. A person's right to security is the same whatever the sex, nationality or colour of that person may be.

In informing you of the daily terrorist practices to which the Iraqi people are being subjected, we express the hope that, acting with the Security Council, you will meet your responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations in order to deter those who commit them and hold them to account for their actions. The interference of United States and British warplanes with civil aviation and their threats to shoot down Iraqi civilian aircraft are acts of terrorism such as demand your immediate intervention to halt them, given that they represent a threat to peace and security in the region.

Iraq reserves in full its right to respond to these threats in an appropriate manner with a view to ensuring the safety of its people and the integrity of its airspace and territory. It charges the United States of America and the United

Kingdom with full legal responsibility for these acts of aggression, and it reserves its legitimate right to seek full compensation for all the damage they have inflicted on the Iraqi people.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq